

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to express our support for the elimination of the current offset between military retired pay and VA disability compensation, commonly known as concurrent receipt.

Under present law, service-disabled military retirees must surrender a portion of their retired pay if they want to receive the disability compensation to which they are entitled. **Congress enacted this unjust law in 1891, and it affects approximately 500,000 disabled military retirees.** Military retirees are the only federal employees affected by the offset. For over 15 years, legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives to correct this long-standing inequity. The Retired Pay Restoration Act has received strong bipartisan support in Congress with 378 cosponsors in the House and 75 cosponsors in the Senate.

The Fiscal Year 2002 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1438) authorizes an end to this unfair practice. However, this provision is contingent upon funding being provided. Consequently, we strongly urge you to include the appropriate language in your Fiscal Year 2003 budget request so that the brave men and women who served our nation can finally receive the retired pay they earned.

Once again, our nation is calling upon the members of the U.S. Armed Forces to defend democracy and freedom. We have no doubt that these brave men and women will rise to the challenge. However, for those of them who have selected to make their career in the U.S. military, they face an unknown risk. If they are injured, they will be forced to forego their earned retired pay in order to receive their VA disability compensation. In effect, they will be paying for their own disability benefits from their retirement checks.

We have a unique opportunity this year to redress the unfair practice of requiring disabled military retirees to fund their own disability compensation. It is time for us to show our appreciation to the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our great nation.

We stand ready to work with you on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Bilirakis Wally Herger

John G. Tom Udall

Mike R. M. A. Rogers

Shelly Berkley Peter King

Walter B. Jones R. Kelly

Sam Vith

Bob Can

Heather Dizon

Sw

Bob Rihy

Ciro D Rodriguez

April

Mary Jones

Glenn Emerson

Eric Carter

Sam Webb

Ted Strickland

Jim Jones

Karen & Thurman

Robert Welch

JP Bass

Mark McIntyre

Frank A. LoBeardo

Herb Schul

Mike Doyle

John G. Thompson

Michael Thompson

Chris Green

Mark Udall

Jim Langeron

Don Miller

Jim Gibbons

Norm Buchs

Bob Felner

Marge Randman

Ed Pastor

Janet Dunn

Al Edwards

Chas

Virgil Goode

Susan & Larry

Denise J. Bennett

Edna & George

Lynn & L. Rivers

Tom Allen

William L. Jackson

C. B. Buntch & Others

John Baldacci

Rick Lansen

~~Alth Rg~~

~~Stacy~~

~~Karen McChes~~

Tom R. Hall

Jim Manning

John B Lansen

Mark Kennedy

Phil English

Ronnie Shouse

Earl Blumenauer

Doug Walden

Lane Evans

Doug Walden

Lane Evans

James G. Cleyton

Ronald Shuler

John E. Summitt

J. Arden

Tom Dams

Ben Stuy

Brian Kerns

Charles H. Taylor

Ed Wharf

Patrick J. Tibbitt

Jim DeMant

Mike Hord

Frank D. Lucas Jim McRaven

Chip Fickes Wm. Lacy Clay

Ed Bryant Ron Paul

Mark Foley Robin Hayes

Jeff Miller Steve Camp

Joe Barton Online Horley

Sue Kelly Jo Ann Davis

Ernie Fletcher Marion Berry

Quincy Wells

Mark Jordan

Carolyn McCarty

Wancy Paul Ryan

Pete Sessions

One Snyder

Wick Melahn

Karl Hertz

Julia Carson

Sadie Keger

Sam Johnson Betty McCann

Jimmy Bolchini John Thur

Leonard L. Bassett Steven Nothman

Myrle Rush Holt

Timothy V. Johnson Vit Fossil

Sally Ambler Joe

Orle E. Under Pete DeVito

Bill Shuster

Rick Boucher

Chuck Hunt Lynn C. Woolsey

Max Fenn

Barney Kunk

Gary L. Ackerman

Sherry Buchheit

Wm. H. Diaz Barry

Tom

M. S. G.

Cliff Henry

Janice Morella

Ralph M. Hall

David E. Bowen

Patsy T. Monk

John J. Dunn

E. Clay Shaw

Conrad L. Stark

Richard Pombo

Jim Bowen

Ed Hay

Maureen Hendry

Robert A. Underwood

Carrie P. Meek

[Signature]

Marty Mehta

Steve Bays

Maxine Waters Howard L. Berman

Alan B. Mollohan W. R. Keefe

Bart Stupak Jim Oberstar

Marcy Kaptur AND CRAMER

Bart Gordon J. Roddy Forbes

Tom Lantos Ken Calvert

Tom Osborne Order Conscience

Zach Wamp

Larry R. Kethenitz

Greg Fasham

John F. Tenny

Donald B. Mangum

Earl Fencerog

Lars Capps

Thyler

John Ory

L. C. Strommen

John T. Costello

Paul E. Kanyoski

Bob Goodlath

Bob Samuel

C. J. Cant

Robert J. Matsui

Gene Taylor

T. J. Holder

Cass Ballenger

Schmidt Pryce

Mike Row
AR-4

Sammy Rehberg

J. R. IL-20

Allen Boyd

Charlie Norwood

Michael R. McHulby

Sam Farr

Samuel Ballenger Jr.